

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1037
By Buck

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Sergeant Shannon
Delane Taylor of Dekalb County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely passing of Sergeant Shannon Taylor, a courageous member of the Tennessee Army National Guard who gave his life in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, following in the patriotic tradition for which Smithville, Dekalb County, and the Volunteer State are renowned, Staff Sergeant Shannon Taylor was a brave and honorable member of the Army National Guard's Third Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment based in Sparta; and

WHEREAS, Shannon Taylor, who was thirty years of age, lost his life while on patrol with his Tennessee Army National Guard unit; he was serving in Iraq near Tuz, some 110 miles north of Baghdad, on August 14, 2005; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Taylor and his unit were deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and like thousands of others of this great nation's sons and daughters, Shannon Taylor did not shrink from serving in combat; he believed in the justice of the cause to protect our national security and liberty and to free the Iraqi people from the chains of injustice; and

WHEREAS, serving with great courage and gallantry, Sergeant Taylor gave his life for his country and the cause in which he believed, and for that ultimate sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition; as a member of the Tennessee Army National Guard, he proudly continued an essential tradition in American society: the concept of the citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, Shannon Taylor's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of family, his fellow soldiers, and his country are exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear and stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, a beloved son and brother, Shannon was deeply devoted to his family and will be dearly missed by his parents, Delane Taylor and Donna Pedigo, and his sister, Michelle Bullard; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Shannon Taylor is also survived by his paternal grandmother, Ressie Taylor; maternal grandparents, Richard and Della Poston; two very special nieces, Lexi and Taylor Bullard; two special aunts, Ruth Cantrell and Elane Ray; special cousins, Rejena Turner, Greg Ray, Shane Turner, and Darrian Turner; aunts, Denise Redman, Dimple Blanchfield, Minnie Lee Poss, Darlene Wooley, and Frances Fincher; and an uncle, Ernest Murphy; and

WHEREAS, Shannon Taylor was preceded in death by his grandfathers, W.B. Taylor and Arnold Murphy; and

WHEREAS, this valiant Tennessean leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly should pause to remember the singular patriotism, courage, and commitment to duty of this exceptional soldier and human being, the late Sergeant Shannon Taylor, Tennessee Army National Guard, whose loss is mourned by a grateful nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Sergeant Shannon Delane Taylor, a man of impeccable character, limitless courage, and stalwart commitment to the defense of his nation as a member of the Tennessee Army National Guard, reflecting fondly upon his bravery and dedication to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family and friends of Sergeant Shannon Taylor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.